

A decorative border of small globe icons, each showing a different continent, surrounds the entire page. The globes are arranged in a rectangular frame with one row along the top and bottom, and one column along the left and right sides.

Early American and Pennsylvania History 2012-2013

Mr. Fitzsimmons

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Early American and Pennsylvania History. This letter will give you a quick overview of course expectations and requirements for this year.

Expectations

My biggest rule in this class is RESPECT. In order for our team to function effectively, every student and teacher must act in a respectful manner. Students must respect their classmates, their teachers, their classroom, and themselves. In return you will receive respect from those around you.

Class time

I expect each student to bring all materials needed for class at the start of the class period. This includes textbooks, notebooks, pens/pencils, and any homework assignment that may be due that day. Students should have a section of their binder that is used for Social Studies **ONLY**. Every morning their assignment for that night will be posted on a homework board at the front of the classroom. At the start of the class period it is the student's responsibility to take their seat and copy their homework for that night. There will also be a rough outline of homework for the entire week. This allows students to begin developing time management skills. However, this outline is only a rough outline and is subject to change.

Evaluations

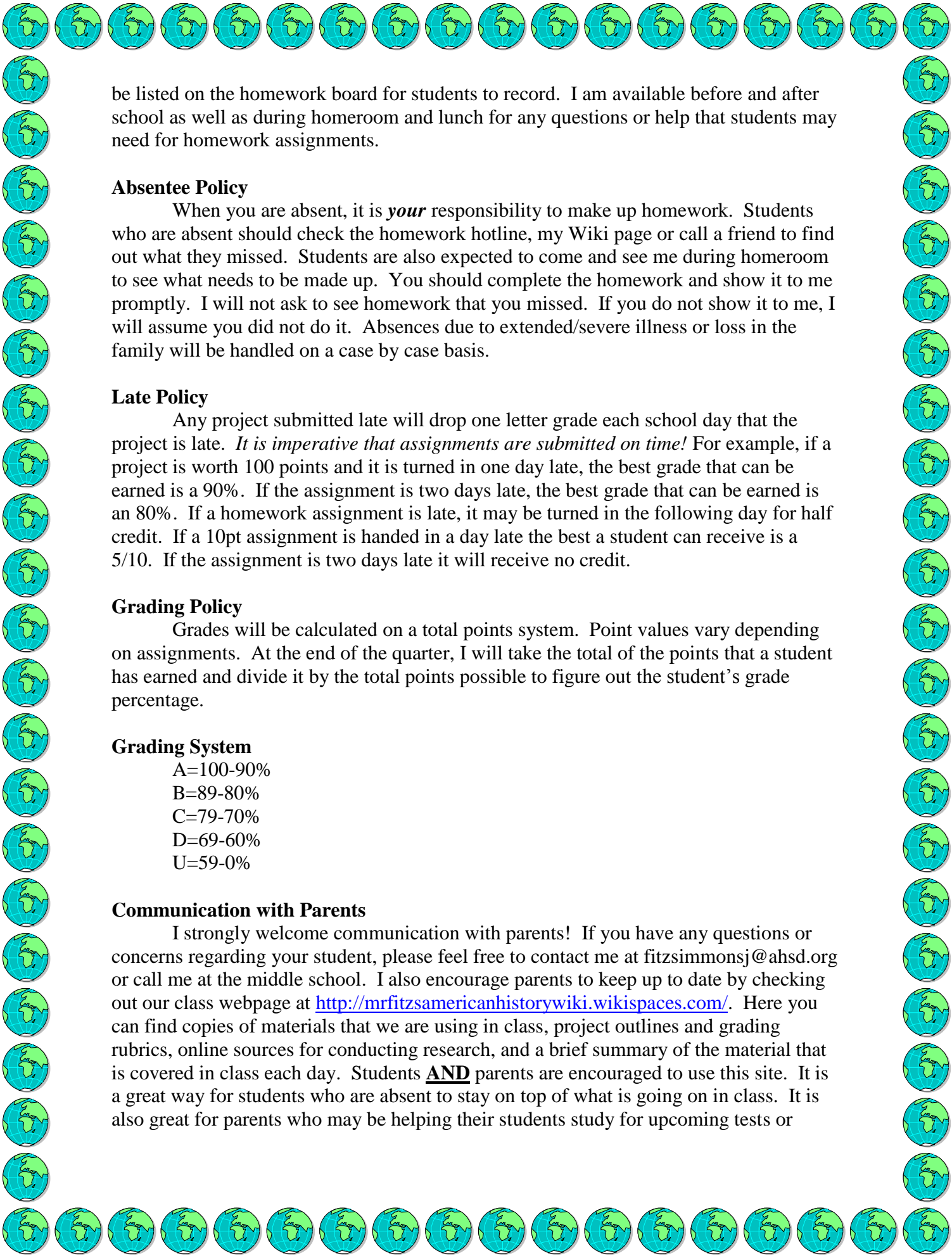
During the course of the year, students can expect to be graded on several different kinds of evaluations including tests, quizzes, projects, and homework.

Tests will usually be given every chapter. They are announced a week or more in advance. Each student will be given a study guide in preparation for each test. Tests are usually worth 100 points.

Quizzes will usually be given several times a chapter. There is at least one vocabulary quiz per chapter. Other quizzes will be given on an as-needed basis. They will usually be announced. Quizzes can range anywhere from 10 to 50 points.

Projects will require time both in and out of school. Students will be given specific expectations for each project as well as a grading rubric so they know just how each project will be graded before it is handed in. Because they do require out of class time, it is important for students not to procrastinate. Projects usually range anywhere from 50 to 100 points.

Homework will be assigned regularly and is due at the **beginning** of the class on the assigned day. Students must bring it to class and **may not go back to their cubby or homeroom once class has started**. Unless informed otherwise by myself, each homework assignment is to be completed individually. Any student who copies a homework assignment from another student will earn a zero for that assignment. Also, any student who gives his/her homework to be copied will earn a zero. Homework will

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be listed on the homework board for students to record. I am available before and after school as well as during homeroom and lunch for any questions or help that students may need for homework assignments.

Absentee Policy

When you are absent, it is ***your*** responsibility to make up homework. Students who are absent should check the homework hotline, my Wiki page or call a friend to find out what they missed. Students are also expected to come and see me during homeroom to see what needs to be made up. You should complete the homework and show it to me promptly. I will not ask to see homework that you missed. If you do not show it to me, I will assume you did not do it. Absences due to extended/severe illness or loss in the family will be handled on a case by case basis.

Late Policy

Any project submitted late will drop one letter grade each school day that the project is late. *It is imperative that assignments are submitted on time!* For example, if a project is worth 100 points and it is turned in one day late, the best grade that can be earned is a 90%. If the assignment is two days late, the best grade that can be earned is an 80%. If a homework assignment is late, it may be turned in the following day for half credit. If a 10pt assignment is handed in a day late the best a student can receive is a 5/10. If the assignment is two days late it will receive no credit.

Grading Policy

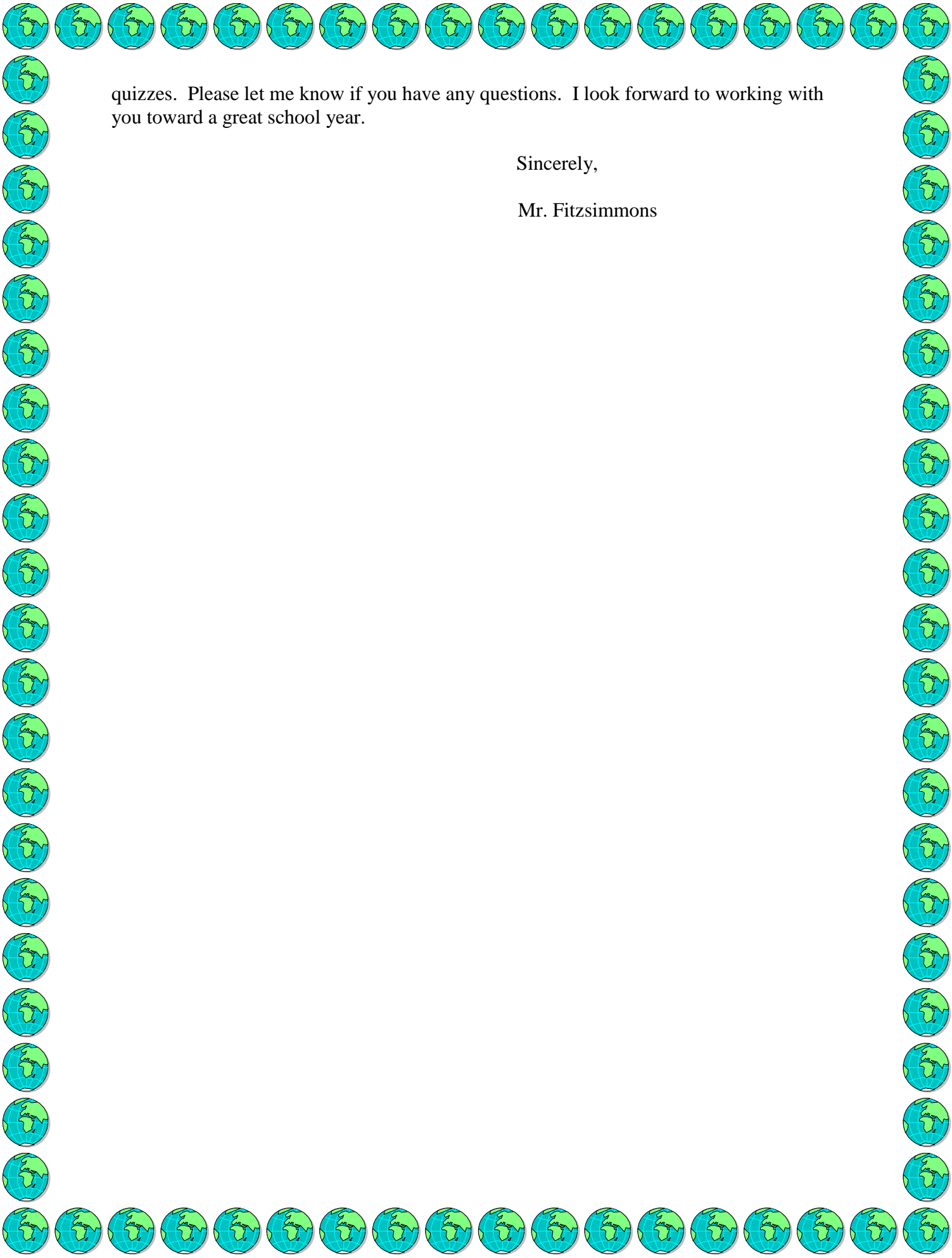
Grades will be calculated on a total points system. Point values vary depending on assignments. At the end of the quarter, I will take the total of the points that a student has earned and divide it by the total points possible to figure out the student's grade percentage.

Grading System

A=100-90%
B=89-80%
C=79-70%
D=69-60%
U=59-0%

Communication with Parents

I strongly welcome communication with parents! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student, please feel free to contact me at fitzsimmsonsj@ahsd.org or call me at the middle school. I also encourage parents to keep up to date by checking out our class webpage at <http://mrfitzsamericanhistorywiki.wikispaces.com/>. Here you can find copies of materials that we are using in class, project outlines and grading rubrics, online sources for conducting research, and a brief summary of the material that is covered in class each day. Students **AND** parents are encouraged to use this site. It is a great way for students who are absent to stay on top of what is going on in class. It is also great for parents who may be helping their students study for upcoming tests or



quizzes. Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you toward a great school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Fitzsimmons

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Please print and sign your name below to acknowledge that you have read the welcome letter.

Student:

Print _____

Sign _____

Period: _____

Parent/Guardian:

Print _____

Sign _____

